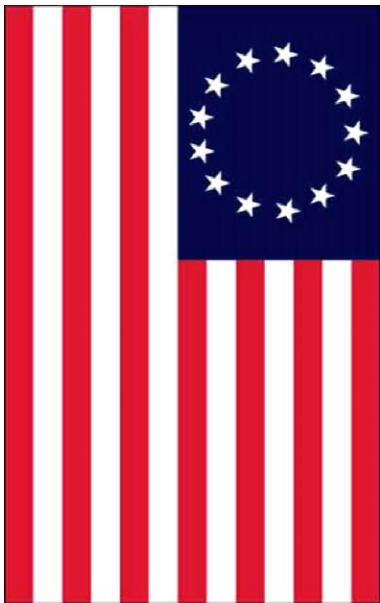




# The American Revolution

Pages 138-195



Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Section: \_\_\_\_\_

## **American Revolution Vocabulary**

- |                                      |                                 |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. French and Indian War             | 18. Olive Branch Petition       |
| 2. Treaty of Paris (1763)            | 19. Continental Army            |
| 3. Sugar Act                         | 20. Patriot                     |
| 4. Stamp Act                         | 21. Loyalist                    |
| 5. Petition                          | 22. Blockade                    |
| 6. Boycott                           | 23. Mercenary                   |
| 7. Repeal                            | 24. <i>Common Sense</i>         |
| 8. Townshend Act                     | 25. Declaration of Independence |
| 9. Boston Massacre                   | 26. Preamble                    |
| 10. Committee of Correspondence      | 27. Natural Rights              |
| 11. Tea Act                          | 28. Ally                        |
| 12. Boston Tea Party                 | 29. Battle of Trenton           |
| 13. Intolerable Acts                 | 30. Hessians                    |
| 14. First Continental Congress       | 31. Battle of Saratoga          |
| 15. Militia                          | 32. Valley Forge                |
| 16. Minuteman                        | 33. Battle of Yorktown          |
| 17. Battles of Lexington and Concord | 34. Treaty of Paris (1783)      |
|                                      | 35. Ratify                      |

# **NOTES**

# **Background to the American Revolution**

## **The French and Indian War**

### **A. Background of the War**

1. England and France were competing with each other for:
  - a. Colonies (land)
  - b. Trade (Money)
  - c. Spreading religion
2. This rivalry between France & England led to war in both Europe and the Americas.
3. The war between England and France in the Americas is known as the French and Indian War
  - a. The war pitted the British, their colonists, and Native American allies against the French and their Native American allies

### **B. The War**

1. The French and Indian War lasted for 9 years (1754-1763).
2. The war was fought because English settlers were moving into the Ohio River valley which was claimed by France.
3. Even with British help the colonies would need to work together to defeat the French.
  - a. Benjamin Franklin's "Join or Die"
4. The first shots of the war were fired by soldiers commanded by a young, 22 year old British officer named George Washington
5. The war was brought to an end by the Treaty of Paris, 1763.
  - a. The Treaty of Paris 1763 forced France to surrender Canada and all land east of the Mississippi River to England

### **C. Effects of the French and Indian War**

1. Due to the war, Great Britain's national debt nearly doubled.
  - a. England wanted the colonies to help pay off the debt
  - b. England's Parliament passed a series of taxes to raise money from the colonies
    1. The Sugar Act: Taxed molasses
    2. The Stamp Act: Taxed paper products
    3. The Townshend Acts: Taxed everyday items like paint, lead, glass and tea
    4. The Tea Act

- c. Colonists resented the taxes
  - 1. Colonists felt that because they could not elect representation to England's Parliament, Parliament should not be able to tax them
  - 2. Groups like the Sons of Liberty and Daughters of Liberty organized colonial protests.
    - a. Forms of Protests
      - i. Signed petitions
      - ii. Organized boycotts
      - iii. Committees of Correspondence
    - b. Sons of Liberty
      - i. Samuel Adams
      - ii. John Hancock
      - iii. John Adams
      - iv. Joseph Warren
      - v. Paul Revere
    - c. Daughters of Liberty
      - i. Abigail Adams
      - ii. Mercy Otis Warren
      - iii. Sybil Ludington
    - d. Examples of Protests
      - i. Boston Massacre
      - ii. Boston Tea Party
  - 3. In response to the Boston Tea Party and other protests, England passed a new series of taxes that the colonists called the Intolerable Acts.
    - a. The Intolerable Acts:
      - i. Closed the port of Boston
      - ii. Outlawed town meetings
      - iii. Gave customs officials more power to search cargo ships
      - iv. Passed a Quartering Act
  - 4. The Other colonies support Boston
    - a. September of 1774, colonial leaders called a meeting in Philadelphia

- b. Delegates from 12 of the 13 colonies meet to decide what to do about the situation in Massachusetts.
  - c. Decided on two courses of action:
    - i. Each colony agreed to boycott all British goods and agreed to stop shipping goods to Britain until the acts were repealed
    - ii. Advised all colonies to set up and train a militia
5. In Massachusetts, colonists already prepared to resist.
- a. Sons of Liberty stockpiled weapons in the town of Concord about 18 miles northwest of Boston.
  - b. Before dawn on April 18th, 1775 the British sent 700 troops to seize the stockpiled weapons and arrest members of the Sons of Liberty.
    - i. Paul Revere and others rode ahead to warn that the British were on their way.
  - c. The British skirmished with minutemen at the town of Lexington on the way to Concord.
  - d. When the British reached Concord the weapons had been moved.
  - e. Militia shot at the British from behind trees and walls as they marched back to Boston
    - i. 73 were killed and over 200 were wounded or missing.
  - f. These shots became known as “the shot heard round the world” and mark the beginning of the American Revolution

# **The American Revolution**

## **The War Begins**

- A. News about the events of Lexington and Concord spread
  - 1. 15,000 militia members from all over the colonies surrounded the British and trapped them in Boston.
  - 2. A 2nd Continental Congress was called to decide what to do.
    - a. 2nd Continental Congress accomplished 2 things:
      - i. Sent the Olive Branch Petition to King George III professing the loyalty of the colonies
      - ii. Created the Continental Army
        - 1. This united the militia around Boston and placed them under the command of one person
        - 2. George Washington was unanimously selected to lead the Continental Army
- B. In the early days of the war many colonists were undecided about which side to support.
  - 1. Roughly 1/3 of colonists were patriots and supported fighting for independence.
  - 2. Roughly 1/3 of colonists were loyalists and wanted to remain loyal to England.
  - 3. Roughly 1/3 of colonists were undecided about which side they should support.
- C. Advantages of Each Army
  - 1. The British Army
    - a. Experienced
    - b. Well Supplied
    - c. Supported by the best Navy on earth
  - 2. The Continental Army
    - a. Motivated
    - b. Knew their surroundings
    - c. Excellent Commanders
    - d. Rifles

## **Key Battles/Events of the War**

- A. Many key events took place throughout the course of the war. Key events are ones that are crucial in deciding the war's outcome. Several key battles and events are located below.

### **Early War/War in the North**

- A. During the early days of the war, much of the fighting centered around New England and Boston. The Continental Army won many victories early on. This was largely due to the fact that the British were once again at war with France in Europe.

#### **1. Fort Ticonderoga**

- i. Ft. Ticonderoga was a British fort located on the New York side of Lake Champlain
- ii. Ticonderoga had many cannons that were used to control trade on the lake
- iii. Vermont blacksmith Ethan Allen lead a group of militia known as the Green Mountain Boys on an attack to seize the fort and its cannons.
  1. Ft. Ticonderoga was captured without ever firing a shot.
  2. Its cannons were captured and sent to Boston

#### **2. Battle of Bunker Hill**

- i. After Lexington & Concord, militia from all over the colonies surrounded the British and trapped them in Boston.
- ii. Colonial militia took control of Bunker and Breeds Hills located across the river from Boston
  1. From Bunker and Breeds Hills the colonists could fire on British ships in Boston Harbor.
- iii. British General William Howe ordered his men to capture Bunker and Breeds hills from the colonists.
  1. Howe's men charged up Bunker hill 3 times before they captured it
  2. The British lost over 1,000 soldiers while the colonists lost only about 400



- iv. While Bunker Hill was technically a defeat for the colonists, it proved to many that the colonists could fight bravely and would not be easily defeated.

### 3. **Dorchester Heights**

- i. Several weeks after Bunker Hill, George Washington arrived and took control of the Continental Army.
- ii. He placed the newly arrived cannons from Ft. Ticonderoga on a hill south of Boston known as Dorchester Heights.
- iii. Knowing he could no longer hold the city, General Howe withdrew all British forces from Boston.

### 4. **The Declaration of Independence**

- i. In late 1775, after months of fighting, 1/3 of colonists were still unsure whether or not they should separate from England
- ii. It wasn't until January of 1776, after Thomas Paine published a fiery pamphlet titled *Common Sense* that colonists were convinced that "tis time to part" from England
  - 1. *Common Sense* sold 500,000+ copies in 6 months
  - 2. *Common Sense* convinced many colonists that:
    - a. Since colonists could not elect representatives to England's Parliament, England did not have the right to make laws for or tax the 13 colonies.
    - b. If England had helped the colonies, it was only for its own profit
    - c. The idea of having a king/queen was wrong
    - d. No colonist owed loyalty to a king/queen
  - 3. *Common Sense* convinced many of the 1/3 undecided colonists that it was time to break away from England.
- iii. In June of 1776, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Continental Congress appointed a committee to write a document declaring the 13 colonies independence from England.
  - 1. The committee included John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Jefferson, Robert Livingston and Roger Sherman
  - 2. The committee asked Thomas Jefferson to write the declaration.

- iv. July 2<sup>nd</sup> 1776, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Continental Congress voted to declare that the 13 Colonies were a free and independent nation.
- v. On the evening of July 4<sup>th</sup> 1776, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Continental Congress officially adopted Jefferson's Declaration of Independence
  - 1. President of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Continental Congress, John Hancock, signed first.
  - 2. Copies of the Declaration were printed and distributed throughout the colonies.
- vi. Format of the Declaration of Independence.
  - 1. 4 Parts
    - a. Preamble
      - i. Introduction
    - b. Natural Rights
      - i. All people have natural rights
      - ii. Given at birth
      - iii. Given by God, NOT the king of England
      - iv. Natural rights include, but are not limited to the right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness
    - c. British Wrongs
      - i. Outlines a list of wrongdoings committed by King George III
      - ii. Outlines the ways King George III violated the colonists natural rights
        - 1. Taxation without representation, Quartering Act, etc...
    - d. Conclusion
      - i. The conclusion of the Declaration stated that since the colonists have natural rights that were given to them by God, and Britain and the King of England violated their natural rights, they have the write to brake away from England and become a free and independent nation.

## **War in the Middle States**

A. As the war progressed, much of the fighting shifted from New England to the Middle states. From mid-1776 to 1778, the Continental Army would suffer a string of defeats that would leave the fate of the war in doubt. These would be that darkest days of the war for the new nation.

### **1. Battles of Long Island & Brooklyn**

- i. British forces under General Howe invade New York City
  - 1. How's army consisted of:
    - a. 34,000 soldiers
    - b. 20,000 sailors
- ii. Washington's army is no match
  - 1. Washington only had 20,000 soldiers
  - 2. Roughly 1,400 of whom were killed, wounded, or captured
- iii. Washington and his army were forced to retreat across the Hudson River into New Jersey.

### **2. Battles of Trenton and Princeton**

- i. After suffering multiple defeats in both New York and New Jersey, the Continental Army retreated across the Delaware River into Pennsylvania.
- ii. Washington needed a victory to raise moral in the army and in the colonies.
- iii. On Christmas eve Washington decided to launch a sneak attack on the Hessian troops guarding the town of Trenton
  - 1. At midnight Washington & his army crossed the Delaware River from Pa into NJ.
  - 2. At 8am Christmas morning Washington's army caught the Hessians off guard & a short battle ensued.
    - a. By 9am 22 Hessians were dead and over 1,000 captured
    - b. Washington also defeated a smaller British force at Princeton soon after
- iv. The Battles of Trenton & Princeton gave Americans new hope that the revolution might succeed

### **3. Battle of Saratoga**

- i. The Continental Army was in desperate need to new troops and supplies.
- ii. European countries were reluctant to help the Continental army because they doubted whether or not they could actually win the war.
- iii. At the battle of Saratoga the Continental Army beat British forces under the command of General John Burgoyne.
- iv. The battle of Saratoga was a turning point in the war. It gave European countries proof that the Continental Army could beat the British in a major battle.

#### **3. France became allies with the United States**

- a. France donated money, supplies, troops and the use of its navy

### **4. Winter at Valley Forge**

- i. During the winter of 1777-78, the Continental Army had to make a makeshift camp outside of Philadelphia
- ii. The conditions at Valley Forge were terrible
  - 1. Winter was harsh and cold
  - 2. Overcrowded (15,000 +)
  - 3. Lack of shelter
  - 4. Disease (1 out of 5 soldiers contracted smallpox)
  - 5. Hunger
  - 6. Frostbite
- a. Volunteers from around the colonies arrived to help.
  - i. The Daughters of Liberty collected food, clothing and medicine
  - ii. Many, like Martha Washington, acted as nurses to help the sick and wounded.

- iii. Arrival of supplies, better weather and help from Europe brought relief.
  - 1. Baron von Steuban
    - a. From Prussia
    - b. Taught the army to march and fight
- iv. Effects of the Winter at Valley Forge
  - 1. Brought the army closer together
  - 2. The army would emerge stronger and more disciplined than before

#### **5. Benedict Arnold Gives up West Point**

- a. On August 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1780, American General Benedict Arnold was placed in command of West Point.
  - i. West Point was a fort located on the Hudson River and controlled passage up and down the river.
- b. Secretly, Arnold had been selling information to the British.
- c. In September of 1780, Arnold tried to turn over plans of West Point to the British.
  - i. Arnold's plans were intercepted and his betrayal had been uncovered.
  - ii. Arnold escaped capture and joined the British army.
  - iii. To this day, the name Benedict Arnold is synonymous with being a traitor.

### **The War's End/War in the South**

- A. At the beginning of the war, much of the South was controlled by the British. This was easy for the British because southern states had a higher percentage of loyalists than New England or the middle states. However, as the war went on, more and more southerners became Patriots. Although the British were successful in most conventional battles in the South, soldiers under the leadership of Generals Nathanael Greene and Daniel Morgan used guerrilla warfare hit-and-run tactics and were eventually able to wear down the British.

1. The Battle of Yorktown
  - a. British General Charles Cornwallis was ordered to march to New York
  - b. Instead he marched to Yorktown, VA.
    - i. Yorktown is on a peninsula
    - ii. Cornwallis was hoping the British navy could resupply his troops from the sea
  - c. Washington trapped Cornwallis on the peninsula
    - i. The French navy blocked the British from escaping by sea
    - ii. Washington laid siege to Yorktown for weeks
    - iii. On October 19, 1781, Cornwallis surrendered to Washington
    - iv. This marked the end of fighting in the Revolutionary War
2. The Treaty of Paris, 1783
  - a. Both England and the United States sent delegates to Paris to draw up a peace treaty
    - i. Among others, the U.S. sent Benjamin Franklin and John Adams
    - ii. An agreement was reached and the treaty was ratified on April 15, 1783
    - iii. The Treaty of Paris accomplished the following:
      1. England had to recognize the U.S. as an independent nation
      2. Set the U.S. borders at The Atlantic Ocean (East), the Mississippi river (West), the Great Lakes (North) and Florida (South).

## **Effects of the American Revolution**

1. The World Turned Upside Down
  - a. The birth of a nation
  - b. Toppling of a superpower
    - i. England would never regain air of invincibility
  - c. The Revolution would serve as an inspiration to others all around the world
    - i. Ex: The French Revolutions
  - d. The world was watching to see if a democracy such as ours could really work...

# **Resources**